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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 001004

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: ANKARA PUK AND KDP REPS DISCUSS IRAQ ELECTION RESULTS WITH LOCAL DIPLOMATS

Classified By: Political Military Counselor Timothy A. Betts. Reasons 1 .4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (U) On Feb. 23 PolMilOffs attended a briefing for local diplomats by Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Ankara representative Bahros Galali and Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) representative Omer Merani on the results of the Iraq elections and latest developments in Iraq. European and Chinese diplomats also attended.

¶2. (C) Galali provided statistical data on the national and northern governorate election results. He emphasized that the Kurds think of themselves as Iraqis and that they seek a strong, democratic, secular government in Iraq. Galali added that the Kurds have a good relationship with all Iraqi parties that participated in the election. He said that Sunni Arabs did not participate adequately but they need to be involved in the Iraqi government and in drafting the constitution. He said that both GOT and Turkmen officials have realized that the Turkmen would have done better in the elections had they joined with the main Kurdish coalition instead of running separately. The Kurds stand ready to work with the Turkmen, Galali emphasized.

¶3. (C) On Talabani and Barzani's vision of federalism, Galali stated that Iraq's natural resources should be shared among all the regions. The Kurds will seek a greater share of the state budget, however (he said the current level was 17%). While it is correct to call Kirkuk an Iraqi city rather than a Kurdish city, Galali added, it rightly belongs in the KRG-administered region.

¶4. (C) In a side conversation with PolMilOff, Galali explained that he had specifically called together European diplomats in order to seek EU support for the future of Iraq.

¶5. (U) Iraq posts minimize considered.
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